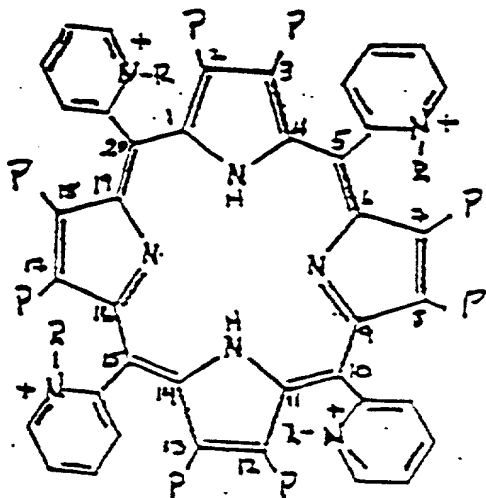


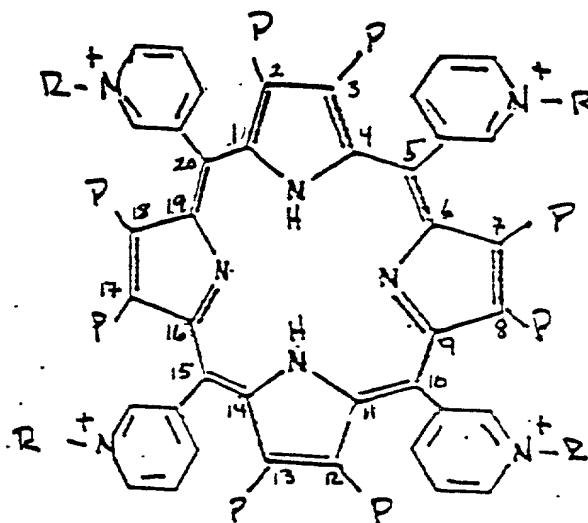
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula



I

or



II,

or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
wherein

each R is, independently, a C₁-C₈ alkyl group,
and

each P is, independently, an electron
withdrawing group or hydrogen,

wherein when each R is methyl and each P is
hydrogen, said compound is complexed with a metal
selected from the group consisting of manganese, iron,
copper, cobalt, nickel or zinc.

2. The compound according to claim 1 where each R is independently a C₁-C₄ alkyl group.

3. The compound according to claim 2 wherein each R is, independently, a methyl, ethyl or isopropyl group.

4. The compound according to claim 3 wherein each R is, independently, a methyl or an ethyl group.

5. The compound according to claim 1 wherein each P is, independently, hydrogen or an electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of -NO₂, a halogen, a nitrile, a vinyl group and a formyl group.

6. The compound according to claim 1 wherein at least one P is a halogen.

7. The compound according to claim 1 wherein one or two P's are formyl groups and the remaining P's are hydrogen.

8. The compound according to claim 1 wherein one P is a formyl group and the remaining P's are hydrogen.

9. The compound according to claim 1 wherein one or two P's are -NO₂ and the remaining P's are hydrogen.

10. The compound according to any one of claims 1-

9 wherein said compound is complexed with a metal selected from the group consisting of manganese, iron, copper, cobalt, nickel or zinc.

11. The compound according to claim 10 wherein said compound is complexed with manganese.

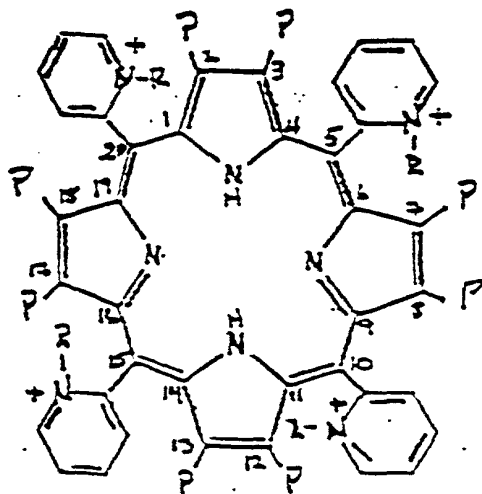
12. The compound according to claim 1 wherein each R is a methyl or ethyl group, each P is a hydrogen, and said compound is complexed with manganese.

13. The compound according to claim 1 wherein each R is a methyl or ethyl group, at least one P is Br and the remaining P's are hydrogen and said compound is complexed with manganese.

14. The compound according to claim 1 wherein said compound is a mixture of atropoisomers $\alpha\alpha\alpha\alpha$, $\alpha\alpha\alpha\beta$, $\alpha\alpha\beta\beta$ and $\alpha\beta\alpha\beta$.

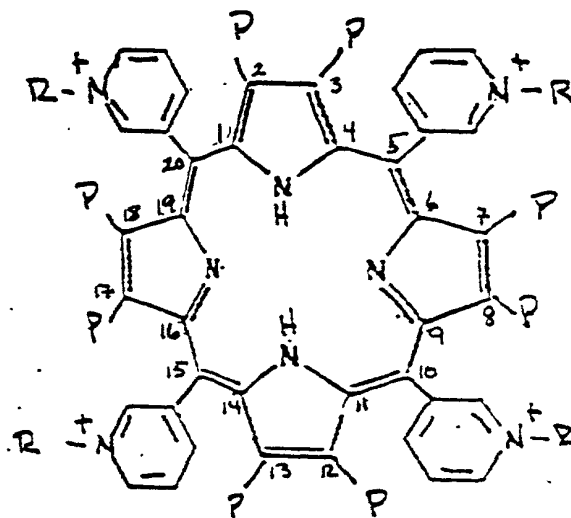
15. The compound according to claim 1 wherein said compound is a mixture of $\alpha\alpha\alpha\beta$ and $\alpha\alpha\alpha\alpha$ atropoisomers.

16. A method of protecting cells from oxidant-induced toxicity comprising contacting said cells with a protective amount of a compound of formula



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or



II,

or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

each R is, independently, a C₁-C₈ alkyl group,

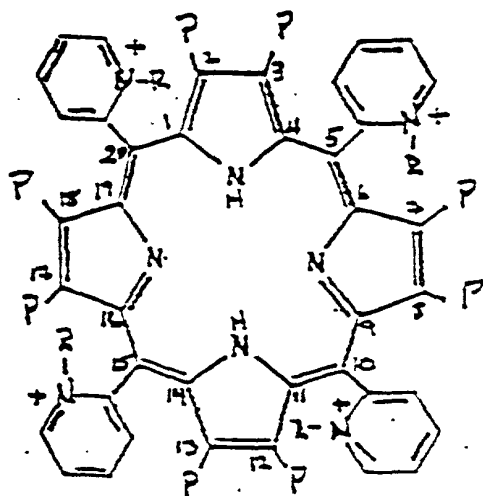
and

each P is, independently, an electron withdrawing group or hydrogen.

17. The method according to claim 16 wherein said compound is complexed with a metal selected from the group consisting of manganese, iron, copper, cobalt, nickel or zinc.

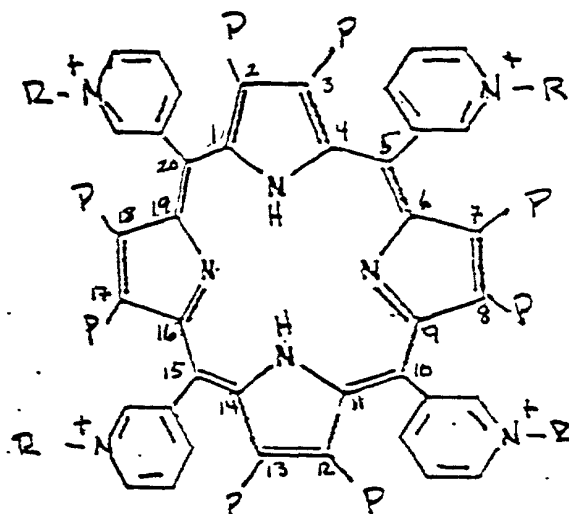
18. The method according to claim 16 wherein said cells are mammalian cells.

19. A method of treating a pathological condition of a patient resulting from oxidant-induced toxicity comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound of formula



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or



II,

or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

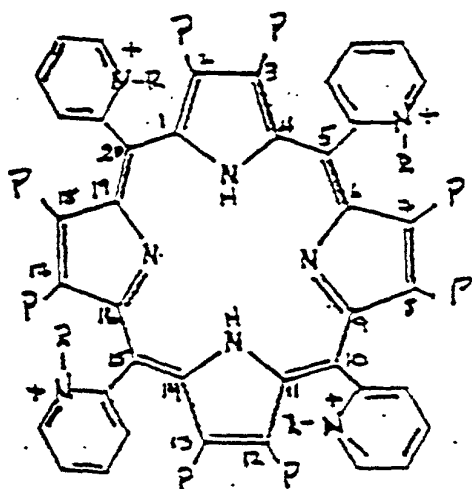
each R is, independently, a C₁-C₈ alkyl group,

and

each P is, independently, an electron withdrawing group or hydrogen.

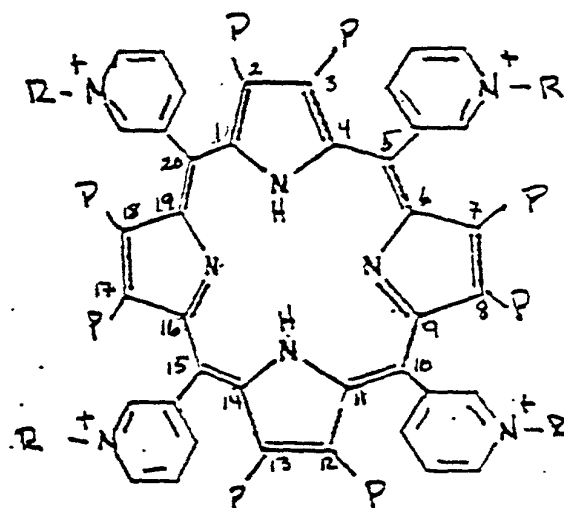
20. The method according to claim 19 wherein said compound is complexed with a metal selected from the group consisting of manganese, iron, copper, cobalt, nickel or zinc.

21. A method of treating a pathological condition of a patient resulting from degradation of NO[•] or a biologically active form thereof, comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound of formula



I

or



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wherein

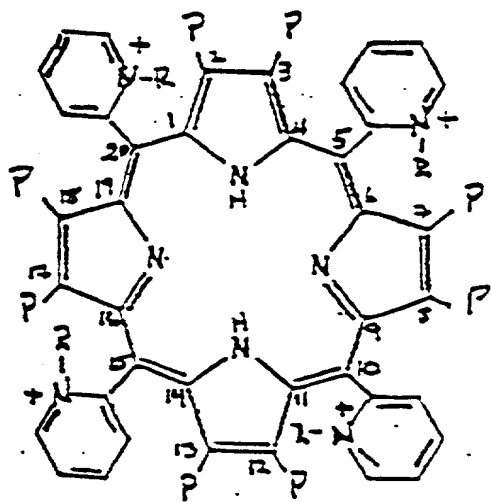
each R is, independently, a C₁-C₈ alkyl group,

and

each P is, independently, an electron withdrawing group or hydrogen.

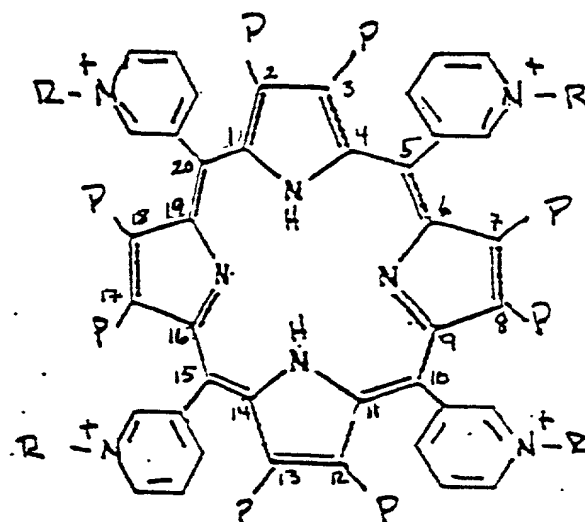
22. The method according to claim 21 wherein said compound is complexed with a metal selected from the group consisting of manganese, iron, copper, cobalt, nickel or zinc.

23. A method of treating a patient for inflammatory lung disease comprising administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound of formula



I

or



II,

or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

each R is, independently, a C₁-C₈ alkyl group,

and

each P is, independently, an electron withdrawing group or hydrogen.

24. The method according to claim 23 wherein said compound is complexed with a metal selected from the group consisting of manganese, iron, copper, cobalt, nickel or zinc.

25. The method according to claim 24 wherein said metal is manganese.

26. The method according to claim 23 wherein said inflammatory lung disease is a hyper-reactive airway disease.

27. The method according to claim 23 wherein said inflammatory lung disease is asthma.